

Reading Grade 8

Reading is fundamental to all learning and supports us as lifelong learners. It can open our minds to people, places, and ideas beyond our own experiences. It gives us the knowledge we need to make informed choices as responsible citizens in a democratic society. One need only to browse the Internet to realize how much information is available to us at our fingertips. Understanding what we read, using the wealth of information available to us, and thinking critically about what we read are crucial skills to function successfully in today's world.

About the Test

AIMS DPA Reading will present several passages to read, both fiction and nonfiction. You may also be given informational text to read – for example, labels or pages from manuals. The questions will measure your ability to understand, interpret, and analyze what you have read. There are approximately 84 multiple-choice reading items. Thirty-nine items are AIMS questions, 15 items are *TerraNova* and AIMS DPA questions, and 30 items represent 10 *TerraNova* reading questions and 20 *TerraNova* language arts questions. The test should be completed in approximately 1-2 hours. One sample passage is provided in this guide followed by a set of questions. Reading this passage and answering the questions may help you prepare for the test. An answer key is included in this guide.

Hints for Taking AIMS DPA Reading

- You will be asked to read different types of fiction and nonfiction, so adjust your reading to your purpose. Read each passage and the accompanying questions carefully.
- Think about each question before you respond.
- Choose the best response to the multiple-choice questions. Read all answers before making your selection.
- Manage your time so that you won't feel rushed answering questions that require more thought. **This is not a timed test**, but you do want to use your time well.
- Answer all items.

Reading Sample Passage

LEXILE 1010L

Bisbee

“Hurry up, or we’ll miss it,” Larry called as he ran around the corner. He had always been faster even though I was stronger. That’s why we always liked to play sports together, we were a great team.

It was the summer of 1950 when I turned fourteen and our lives were all about to change. No matter how nervous we were about the move, we looked forward to seeing how people moved whole houses.

“You missed it,” my sister Juana told us as we looked up helplessly as men loaded my family’s three-bedroom house onto a huge flatbed truck. Suspended in midair was the home I had been living in for almost ten years. I caught my breath as the house and heavy equipment groaned and creaked and popped. Some of the houses had fallen apart when the company tried to move them. Soon there would be nothing left of our neighborhood but bare foundations and rubble.

I didn’t want to move out of this mining community. Since we had moved to Bisbee, Arizona, the Lavender Pit Mine had produced over a hundred million pounds of copper. The lead and zinc – extracted along with the copper – had also kept the town going. Some people thought that the Lavender Pit Mine had been named for the lavender streaks in the copper hills, but it was actually named for the mine’s general manager, Harrison Lavender. Mr. Lavender and his engineers had made some very accurate predictions long before my family came to town. The mine had grown to more than a mile long, three-quarters of a mile wide, and almost a thousand feet deep. The mining operations had eaten up the copper-colored hills where Larry and I used to ride our bikes. Electric shovels had gnawed away at the ground until the vast pit mine had given up all she had and they were closing her down. Now, two hundred and fifty homes were being relocated from Lowell, Upper Lowell, and Johnson Addition.

The company had built long dirt roads as wide as interstates to roll away the houses on the flatbed trucks. When the houses arrived in Saginaw, they would be set on their new foundations and hooked up to the gas and water supply lines. The miners would help each other make repairs, and the mining company was paying for everything, but it wasn’t easy pulling up roots.

Larry folded his scrawny arms across his chest and interrupted my unhappy thoughts. “Is your father going to let you try out for football this year, David?”

Scowling, I kicked a rock into the road. “Nah. I’ll be busy fixing windows, hanging sheetrock, and painting some of these houses.” I noticed a little bit of pride creeping into my voice. Like all of the miners, my dad worked long and hard hours, and I would be needed to make the repairs around the neighborhood. There would be much work to do, and every family member’s help would be valuable. Besides that, I figured that before football season was over, I would earn enough money to have a pretty good savings account started.

Shading his eyes from the late afternoon sun, Larry looked down the road. “I was thinking the same thing,” he said. “Maybe you and I can make some money working together this year. Then we can drive ourselves to football practice year after next.” We laughed and spent the rest of the afternoon talking about cars. We had been talking about our dream cars since sixth grade.

It was nearly dark when the men settled the house onto the flatbed. The truck would roll out first thing in the morning. With a little luck the house would make it in one piece to the new neighborhood. Just then, my dad drove up and parked under the tree he had planted ten years ago. “Looks like they’re about done,” he called out to me. He looked tired after another hot day, but he stepped out of his truck, walked up, and put a hand on my shoulder.

“It’s still in pretty good shape, Dad,” I said. “But we’ll have plenty of work to do on it once it’s back on the ground.”

We stood quietly for a while and watched the men pack up their tools for the day. Our gazes turned to the space where our house once stood, like a graveyard with small pieces of our past strewn about like memories.

Dad turned to look at me and said, “I’m sorry that you won’t be able to try out for football like you wanted, David.”

I shrugged and smiled back. “There’s always next year.”

1 What would most likely cause “pride to creep into” David’s voice?

- A He wanted to move to Saginaw.
- B He looked forward to working long hours.
- C He felt good to be able to help others.
- D He did well in football last year.

2 Which character is heard from a first person point of view?

- A Dad
- B Juana
- C Larry
- D David

3 How did the main character of this passage try to resolve a Person vs. Nature conflict?

- A by moving to a new location
- B by waiting a year to play football
- C by making repairs around the neighborhood
- D by closing down the mine

4 Based on the passage, what does David **most** likely plan to do with the money he earns?

- A buy new tools
- B go to a football game
- C purchase a car
- D repair the house

5 Read this sentence from the passage.

Electric shovels gnawed away at the ground until the vast pit had given up all she had and they were closing her down.

What did the author mean by this sentence?

- A The mine was named after a woman.
- B The mine no longer had enough copper.
- C The mine kept the town going.
- D The mine was more than a mile long.

6 Read this sentence from the passage.

Our gazes turned to the space where our house once stood, like a graveyard with small pieces of our past strewn about like memories.

What did the author mean by this sentence?

- A There was little left to remind them of Bisbee.
- B There was a huge hole left in the ground.
- C The house had broken into many pieces.
- D The early miners were buried nearby.

7 Which trait does **not** describe David?

- A hopeful
- B argumentative
- C friendly
- D upset

8 Read the sentences about the passage.

1. David turned fourteen.
2. The company built wide roads.
3. The history of the Lavender mine was described.
4. The family moved to Bisbee.

Which of the following shows the sentences numbered in chronological order?

- A 3 – 4 – 1 – 2
- B 4 – 1 – 2 – 3
- C 3 – 1 – 2 – 4
- D 4 – 3 – 1 – 2

Scoring Key

Reading Key

Question #1: C
Question #2: D
Question #3: A
Question #4: C
Question #5: B
Question #6: A
Question #7: B
Question #8: D